MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The contract for the supply of iron materials and erection has been given to Messrs. Braithwaite and Co., Engineers Ltd., London and Calcutta; and for abutments, decking and approaches no contract has been given as yet.

(*b*) Tenders were invited for the second item and no tenders were invited for the first.

Messrs. Braithwaite and Co., are specialists in this direction and hence competitive tenders were considered unnecessary. Their quotation was obtained and scrutinised and found very favourable.

(*c*) The regular estimate is being prepared.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In answer to part (*b*) will the member kindly state whether there are not specialists other than Messrs. Braithwaite & Co.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are one of the best.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): My question is whether there are not other specialists?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There may be others in the world.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I ask only of companies in the world?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For our work that company was found suitable.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the amount of the contract given to Messrs. Braithwaite & Co., has been fixed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The rates have been fixed and from that the amount is workable.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to understand that the total amount has not been fixed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) I have not got that here. It is capable of being worked.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know the total amount.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to understand from the answer to part (*c*) that no estimate was prepared before the contract was given?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The estimate was not fully ready.

Bridge across the Neendakara Bar.

211. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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(*a*) whether they have given on contract the construction of the bridge across the Neendakara bar;

(*b*) if so, whether it was given in accordance with tenders, after the necessary notifications had been duly published in the *Gazette*; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, the number of tenders received for the work, the names of the persons who offered the tenders with their respective rates, and of those to whom the contracts for the work were given, and whether they are sons of the soil or foreigners?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 210 by Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.

Speed of Service Buses.

212. **MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the difficulties that would arise by allowing an increased rate of speed to service buses in the State; and

(*b*) the number of offences committed by over-speeding and over-loading?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The question of allowing an increased rate of speed to service buses is engaging the attention of the Government.

(*b*) The question is indefinite as it does not specify the period for which the information should be furnished.

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